

Message Text

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ORIGIN SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 /009 R

DRAFTED BY S/NM:RADUGSTAD:OSG

APPROVED BY S/NM:SBVANCE

ARA/MEX:JKEANE (PHONE)

ARA/LA:GBROWN (PHONE)

S/NM:DCOHEN

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P 292248Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 231767

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: GOM ERADICATION CAMPAIGN

REF: DEA MEXICO 604

FOR AMBASSADOR JOVA FROM VANCE

1. REFTTEL WITH INFO SECSTATE INDICATES DEPUTY A.G. ROSALES MIRANDA TOLD DEA DRD HEATH THAT ACTUAL ERADICATION EFFORTS FOR NEW CAMPAIGN WOULD NOT BEGIN UNTIL JANUARY 1976. AS EARLIER MESSAGES HAVE INDICATED, WE ARE EXTREMELY CONCERNED WITH SETTING AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE COMMENCEMENT DATE FOR ANY AND ALL OF THE CAMPAIGN'S REGIONAL COMPONENTS NOT ONLY BECAUSE COMPASS TRIP REPORT (SENT TO EMBASSY) REPEATEDLY SHOWS NEED FOR EARLY ERADICATION EFFORTS, BUT ALSO TO PROVIDE NECESSARY PSYCHOLOGICAL MOMENTUM TO THE CAMPAIGN AND ACHIEVE MAXIMUM EFFECTIVENESS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THIS YEAR'S CAMPAIGN REQUIRED SEVERAL MONTHS
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BEFORE OPTIMUM EFFECTIVENESS WAS REACHED AND WE CAN ASSUME,

WITH EXPANDED UPCOMING CAMPAIGN, AN EVEN LONGER TIME TO DEVELOP EFFECTIVENESS WILL BE NEEDED.

2. WE APPRECIATE EMPHASIS OF CONCERN FOR EARLY START-UP DATE THAT YOU EXPRESSED TO A.G. OJEDA DURING RECENT VISIT

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OF MR. PARSONS. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR REEMPHASIZING OUR CONCERN IN CONTEXT EXPRESSED ABOVE TO A.G. IN VIEW OF UNFORTUNATE HELICOPTER CRASHES WITH LOSS OF LIVES; YOU COULD ALSO CONVEY TO A.G. OUR PLANS TO REPLACE BOTH HELICOPTERS AS SOON AS PROCUREMENT POSSIBLE IN CONTEXT OF AN ASSUMED LIMITED USE OF HERBICIDES BY GOM FOR FORTHCOMING CAMPAIGN THAT WOULD STILL CALL FOR A CONTINUING LEVEL OF SEVENTEEN 212 HELICOPTERS IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN DESIRED DEGREE OF EFFECTIVENESS. WE DO NOT WANT TO PRESS GOM FOR A DECISION ON HERBICIDES OR APPEAR TO BE PRESSING. IF A.G. VOLUNTEERS HIS CURRENT THINKING ON HERBICIDES AND INDICATES PLANS FOR MORE EXTENSIVE USE OF HERBICIDES THAT WOULD INDICATE FEWER HELICOPTERS ARE REQUIRED, WE WOULD NOT PROCEED WITH REPLACEMENT PLANS.

3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SANITIZED VERSION OF COMPASS TRIP REPORT (REMOVAL OF SUBJECTIVE COMMENTS ABOUT VALIDITY OF GOM'S POPPY FIELD DESTRUCTION DATA) IS BEING PREPARED BY EMBASSY AND WILL BE GIVEN DIRECTLY TO A.G. OJEDA, THUS PROVIDING HIM WITH FACTUAL RATIONALE FOR EARLY COMMENCEMENT DATE OF CAMPAIGN. INGERSOLL

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